



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
THE SENATE
OFFICIAL REPORT



Fifth Session

Thursday, 14th May, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 14th May, 2026

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) in the Chair]

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Clerk, do we have a quorum?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Deputy Speaker)

Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly, ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Hon. Senators, let us settle down for business because we have the quorum. Clerk, please, read out the first Order.

(Several Senators stood in their places)

Senators, please, find your way to your seats, or even the nearest one. There is no specific seat for any Senator. Sen. Wamatinga, please, have a seat.

Hon. Senators, I have two Communications to make at this juncture.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF GAMBIA

Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Speaker's Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation from the National Assembly of Gambia, comprising Members of the Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development

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and NGO Affairs and its secretariat. The delegation is in the Senate for a benchmarking visit.

I request each Member of the delegation to stand when called out so that you may be acknowledged in the Senate tradition-

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| (1) Hon. Yaya Gassama | - | Leader of the Delegation and Chairperson,
Select Committee on Environment,
Sustainable Development and NGO Affairs |
| (2) Hon. Essa Conteh | - | Vice Chairperson |
| (3) Hon. Kebba Lang Fofana | - | Member |
| (4) Hon. Tamsir Cham | - | Member |
| (5) Hon. Omar Jobe | - | Member |
| (6) Hon. Nfamara Sabally | - | Member |
| (7) Hon. Saikou Bah | - | Member |
| (8) Hon. Haruna Barry | - | Member |
| (9) Hon. Gibbi Mballow | - | Member |
| (10) Mr. Mamadou AM Bah | - | Senior Committee Clerk |
| (11) Ms. Isatou Sonko | - | Committee Clerk |
| (12) Mr. Lamin M. Dibba | - | Principal Draftsman |
| (13) Mr. Modika Bah | - | Research Officer |
| (14) Ms. Ramatoulie Jawo | - | Assistant Communications Officer |
| (15) Mr. Bakary Jammeh | - | Protocol Officer |
| (16) Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed | - | Managing Director of the Climate
Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable Group of
20 Finance Ministers |
| (17) Mr. Yussuf Hussein Yussuf | - | Director Regional Officer for Africa |
| (18) Ms. Rachel Mundilo | - | Deputy Director for Parliament |

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish you a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

(Several Senators walked into the Chamber)

Hon. Senators, you can proceed to your seats.

I request the Senate Majority Leader to welcome the delegation in not more than two minutes.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I join you, on behalf of my colleagues, to welcome the guests, visiting Members of Parliament and their staff from the Parliament of the Republic of Gambia, who, as you have communicated, are here on a study tour and have interacted with quite a number of our staff. If they have not, they soon will with some of the Members of this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that in their interaction, they will extend an invitation because one of the biggest tragedies of us parliamentarians in this House, is

that there are so many people who can point out streets by name in the posh capitals of the world, but know very little about Africa. I look forward to passing a report here on a visit to a country such as The Gambia because there is a lot that we can learn from each other as African nations as opposed to some of these established republics and cities that Members of Parliament are fond of frequenting.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope this visit of our colleagues from the Parliament of Gambia will result or yield a reciprocative visit by different Members of the Committee. I would wish to be part and parcel because, unfortunately, I have never been to that country yet I know quite a few things about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they had a maverick for a president in His Excellency Yahya Jammeh who unfortunately lost the election. However, they have brought an even more able president who recently visited with us. I was really impressed by his understanding on African issues and what he is doing for his people. We wish them well during their stay. I hope that they will enjoy and get to interact with Nairobi at its best.

The only complaint I have about them is that the last time the Gambia national football team visited here, the forward from Brighton Football Club (FC), Yakuba Minte, destroyed our defence. I felt very bad about it. Nonetheless, you are welcome to the Parliament of Kenya.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Thank you, the Senate Majority Leader. In my opinion, you should not complain, but compliment them that they have a strong team. Harambee Stars should learn from them.

The Senate Minority Leader, please, proceed to your seat.

Hon. Senators, I have another Communication.

VISITING DELEGATION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
FROM KERICHO DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation of five teachers and 73 students from Kericho Day Secondary School in Kericho County. The delegation is visiting the Senate for an academic exposition.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

(Sen. Cherarkey spoke off the record)

Sen. Cherarkey, you are out of order. Do you think the Chair does not recognise that the Senate Majority Leader, the Hon. Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot should be on feet welcoming Kericho Day Secondary School, because this is where he comes from?

Senate Majority Leader, proceed and welcome the students from Kericho Day Secondary School.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the students from Kericho Day Secondary School. This is one of the largest day schools that we have in Kericho County and has been there for quite a while.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these students are welcome. I hope they get to interact with as many Members as possible. Certainly, the Senator will spare a minute or two to walk to the back of the Chamber should the business of the day ease a bit.

Currently in my office, I have a staffer by the name Lillian who is an alumna of this school. I hope, since I know she is watching, that she will also find time to welcome these students and inspire them. I wish you well as you travel around the city and back home. Pass my regards to your parents.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, today, we have enough visitors visiting the Senate, so, just so relax, so that we welcome all of them.

VISITING DELEGATION FROM THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

Honourable Senators, as you may recall, on Wednesday, 5th May, 2026, I convened a communication regarding the Regional Seminar for African Parliaments on Climate Action, themed, “*Reducing Methane, Promoting Development.*” In line with this seminar, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation from IPU

The delegation comprises three delegates who are facilitating the above-mentioned seminar scheduled to take place at Mara Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi from Friday, 15th to Saturday, 16th May, 2026. I request each member of the delegation to stand when called out, so that we may be acknowledged as per the Senate tradition-

(1) Ms. Alexandra Blagojevic, IPU Programme Manager for International Development and head of Delegation.

(2) Dr. Holly Schofield, PhD, Global Project Lead, IPU Methane Project.

(3) Mr. Alex Ogutu, who is the Africa Regional Focal Point, IPU Methane Project.

On behalf of the Senate, and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation. I also take this opportunity to remind honourable Senators to attend and actively participate in the seminar. The seminar is on 15th and 16th May, 2026. For those who are not attentive, I thank you. The venue is Mara Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi. Do you know where it is, Sen. Cherarkey?

Since I know in this House we have Members who have been actively participating in IPU activities, I welcome Sen. Catherine Mumma to welcome the delegation on behalf of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya.

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, honourable Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the Senate of Kenya and on behalf of the delegations that have been attending the IPU meetings, I wish to welcome our team from IPU to Kenya and to the Senate in particular.

I thank the IPU team for the opportunity you provide to Members of this Senate to learn a lot from other parliaments out of the 183 parliaments. There is a lot that we have

learnt and there is a lot of business that we are moving in this House based on what we learn in the IPU meetings.

Feel welcome, not just in the Senate, but enjoy Nairobi and take more time to enjoy Kenya. The Nairobi environs are actually good for you to explore. Nairobi is the only city with a national park within. Take a moment to visit and feel extremely welcome.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Next Order.

Sen. Mumma, you have a Petition.

PETITION

GOLD MINING IN ISHULU-BUSHANGALA, KAKAMEGA COUNTY

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, honorable Deputy Speaker, Sir. Kindly allow me to read a Petition to the Senate concerning the Shanta Gold Kenya Limited proposed underground mining project in Isulu-Bushiangala, Ikolomani Constituency in Kakamega County.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Republic of Kenya and members of the Isulu-Bushiangalai, Ikolomani Constituency in Kakamega County, draw the attention of the Senate to the following in regard to the ongoing process of prospecting and licensing of Shanta Gold Kenya Limited and other actors to undertake gold mining in Isulu-Bushiangala, Ikolomani in Kakamega County.

(i) THAT Shanta Gold Kenya Limited, a company incorporated in Kenya in 2010, has been prospecting under license number PL 2019-0225 in Isulu-Bushiangala, Ikolomani area in Kakamega County.

(ii) THAT the Government of Kenya has commenced the process of considering the application for granting a mining license to Shanta Gold Limited, evidence in a public notice on Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXVIII - No. 41 dated 4th March 2026.

It must be noted, that the area targeted for an underground gold mining and processing centre in Isulu-Bushiangala, Ikolomani consists of privately owned pieces of land and therefore the land in question does not come under the purview of community land, a Defined Land Act in 2026.

(iii) THAT the area has been known to contain gold deposits and has been characterised by a long history of artisanal mining. The entry of Shanta Gold Limited will not only give them exclusive gold mining rights, but also threaten the economic livelihoods of many locals in addition to the projected loss of property.

(iv) THAT Shanta Gold Kenya Limited has been undertaking reconnaissance and prospecting activities in the area and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report projected project number SGL8045 has been prepared and submitted to the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).

(v) THAT the public participation process for validation of the report has been marred in controversy. The full report has not been availed to the public as required by Section 59 of the Environment Management and Coordination Act (Cap. 387) and

Regulation 17 of the Environment Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations of 203, particularly the socio-economic and cultural risk management and the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the affected communities.

(Loud consultations)

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir I am being disrupted by all the noise in the House.

(vi) THAT NEMA advertised for public participation meetings on 12th November, 2025 and 4th December, 2025 at Bushiangala Technical Training Institute which failed to take off as protests flared up resulting in injuries and the death of four persons. A subsequent two-week police crackdown saw incidents of police brutality and the arrest and prosecution of 51 locals.

(vii) THAT the EIA report by Shanta Gold Limited fails to adequately address land-related issues including the number of families likely to be displaced, the extent of land acquisition proposed by Shanta Gold Kenya Limited, how land under incomplete succession or transfer will be handled, proposed arrangements for graves and other cultural heritage sites linked to the ancestral land and the rationale for the Government not adopting a leasehold arrangement on the said land with full restoration and resettlement after the mining.

(viii) THAT officials in the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, including the Principal Secretary (PS), hosted members of Kakamega County Assembly on diverse dates to discuss the mining project without the community representatives being present.

As a result, the community feels excluded from the process and has lost confidence in the ability of officials from the Ministry to act in a neutral and objective manner in mediating the matter, exacerbating fears that the officials are advocating for the interests of Shanta Gold Limited.

(ix) THAT the process is opaque and has not complied with the requirements of Article 10 of the Constitution on transparency and accountability, public participation, respect for the rule of law, the protection of human rights, among other principles of the constitution.

As a result, the petitioners are seeking the intervention of the Senate to obtain full disclosure of how the national and the county governments have handled the matter of gold prospecting and planned mining in Isulu-Bushiangala area in Kakamega County.

(x) THAT neither the County Government of Kakamega nor the national Government has provided clarity on the proposed social economic and cultural mitigation measures incorporated in any agreement that they may have signed or intend to sign with Shanta Gold Kenya Limited or any other licensee.

(xi) THAT none of the issues raised in the Petition are pending before any court of law, Constitution or legal body and if there was, the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs would not be implementing activities in regard to this project as they are currently doing.

(xii) Consequently, the petitioners pray that the Senate intervenes and inquire into the issues raised with a view to establishing the following-

(a) whether the licensing process for granting Shanta Gold Limited permission to undertake reconnaissance or prospecting activities has complied with the provisions of the Mining Act and the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, Cap. 387, and any other relevant law;

(b) whether the conduct of the officials of the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs met the standards of integrity, impartiality and professionalism required for public officers involved in licensing process;

(c) whether NEMA has fulfilled its legal obligations in handling the application by Shanta Gold Kenya Limited, including full disclosure of the EIA report to the affected communities, particularly the Resettlement Act plan;

(d) whether in the proposed settlement plan, issues pertaining to displacement, compensation and resettlement of affected persons, protecting and conservation of cultural and religious sites and restoration to the ancestral land have been factored;

(e) whether the conduct of the law enforcement officers during the aborted NEMA public participation meetings was appropriate in the circumstances and measures taken to ensure accountability and compensatory avenues, if any, available to the affected families;

(f) assess the impact of the activities and operations of Shanta Gold Kenya on the local communities in Kenya.

The Senate to make recommendations that it deems fit in regard to the petition.

I have read the Petition on behalf of Mr. Daniel Kubasu, Mr. Simon B. Luceno, Mr. Andrew Maleche-Achesa.

Petition presented by Sen. Catherine Mumma, nominated Senator.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.238(1), I commit the Petition to the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources.

In terms of Standing Order No. 238(2)(a), the Committee is required, in not more than 60 calendar days from the time of reading the prayer, to table its report in the Senate for consideration. The Senate shall, therefore, consider and adopt the report of the Committee.

Chairperson, Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources, you are appropriately guided.

(The Petition was committed to the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources)

Hon. Senators, I now wish to reorganise the order of business this afternoon. We defer Order Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and go straight to Order No. 12.

NOTICE OF MOTION**EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TRAFFIC RULES, 2026 AND
NTSA (OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 2026**

THAT AWARE THAT, the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 12 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 13 of 2026); and the National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 14 of 2026) were tabled in the Senate on 26th February 2026, and referred to the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation for consideration pursuant to Section 12(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act;

COGNIZANT THAT pursuant to section 15(1) and (2) of the Statutory Instruments Act the Committee is required to consider the regulations and make its determination within 28 days after the date of referral of the instruments by the Senate which period will lapse on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026;

AWARE THAT Section 15(3) of the Statutory Instruments Act provides that, by a resolution, Parliament may extend the time for consideration of a Statutory Instrument by a period not exceeding 21 calendar days;

NOTING THAT the Committee requires additional time to hold meetings with key stakeholders including the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport;

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate, pursuant to Section 15(3) of the Statutory Instruments Act, resolves to extend the timeline for the consideration of the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 12 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 13 of 2026); and the National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 14 of 2026) for a further 21 Calendar days to enable the Committee to conclude its consideration on or before, Tuesday, 23rd June, 2026.

(Notice of Motion deferred)

STATEMENTS

REPATRIATION OF REMAINS OF KENYANS WHO DIED IN
A PLANE CRASH IN SOUTH SUDAN

STATUS OF OPERATIONALISATION OF GAZETTED
ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KENYA

LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SKATER,
KELVIN KIARIE AND OTHER ATHLETES

DISCOVERY OF TWO CHILDREN'S BODIES IN KIAMA RIVER

DELAYED COMPLETION OF KAMBURU WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KANTHENGE DAM IN EMBU COUNTY

IRREGULAR DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PROJECTS ON PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY LAND

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY PENSION FUND (CPF)

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE,
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAND, ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL COHESION,
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE,
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TOURISM

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS,
TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON
COUNTY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY PUBLIC
INVESTMENTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY 2ND JUNE, 2026

(Statements deferred)

MOTION

NOTING OF REPORT OF PAP COMMITTEES AND
ORGANS HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA, 2024

THAT, the Senate notes the Reports of the Kenya Delegation to the Sittings of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Committees and other Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Organs held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, South Africa on 13th September to 20th September, 2024; and 28th October to 17th November, 2024, laid on the Table of the Senate on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2025.

(Motion deferred)

BILL

Second Reading

THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO.1 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

BILL*Second Reading*THE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT)
BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 38 OF 2025)*(Sen. Cheruiyot on 12.05.2026)**(Resumption of debate interrupted on 13.05.2026- Afternoon sitting)**(Division)*

Can the Division Bell be rung for three minutes?

*(The Division Bell was rung)***The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri):** Hon. Senators, the three minutes are over. Serjeant-at-Arms, close the doors and draw the bars.*(The Bars were drawn and the Doors closed)**(Question put and the Senate proceeded to vote)*

We are going to the Division and we are voting electronically. Sen. George Mbugua and Sen. Beatrice Ogola---

(Sen. Cheruiyot spoke off record)

Okay, good.

Sen. Mbugua, know that you have been enabled to vote electronically on behalf of the Nyandarua County Delegation. For those who are not familiar with the new system---

(Loud consultations)

Order, Senators.

For those who are not familiar with the new system, it is designed that you either vote yes, no or abstain. Those are the three votes that you can make this afternoon on this Bill.

If we are ready, let us go straight to voting.

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Chair)

Proceed and start voting now.

(Voting in progress)

Sen. Joyce Korir, approach the Dispatch Box and vote on behalf of the Bomet County Delegation.

(Sen. Korir approached the Dispatch Box to vote)

Sen. Mwaruma Jones, approached the Dispatch Box as well.

(Sen. Mwaruma approached the Dispatch Box to vote)

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Second Reading

THE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL,
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.38 OF 2025)

*(Question, that the Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Bill,
(National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025) be read a Second Time,
put and the Senate proceeded to vote by County Delegations)*

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Ali Roba, Mandera County; Sen. Boy, Kwale County; Sen. Cherarkey, Nandi County; Sen. Cheruiyot, Kericho County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kinyua, Laikipia County; Sen. Kiprono Chemitei, Baringo County; Sen. Kisang', Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. M. Kajwang', Homa Bay County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mandago, Uasin Gishu County; Sen. Methu, Nyandarua County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Mungatana, EGH, Tana River County; Sen. (Dr.) Murango, Kirinyaga County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Seki, Kajiado County; Sen. Wafula, Bungoma County; Sen. Wakili Sigei, Bomet County; Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County; Sen. Wambua, Kitui County.

NOES: Nil

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, I will now give the results of the Division on the Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Bill, National Assembly Bill No.38 of 2025.

AYES: 31

NOES: Nil

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ABSENTIONS: Nil

(Question carried by 31 votes to Nil)

(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole today by leave of the House)

Hon. Senators, I now rearrange the order of business. We defer Order No.13 and proceed to Order No.14.

(Loud consultations)

Wait, the business will proceed as the Chair is guiding. I do not need any guidance. I request the Clerk to read out the Order No.14.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL,
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.38 OF 2025)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): You know, on several occasions I have advised Senators what to do when the Chair stands up in the Committee of the Whole. You look at the Chair and bow to this side and to that side.

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma) in the Chair]

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, we are now in the Committee of the Whole to consider the Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Bill, (National Assembly Bill No.38 of 2025).

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

(Question, that Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 be part of the Bill, proposed)

Division at the end.

Clause 10

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Chairperson, Sen. Faki?

Sen. Faki: Madam Temporary Chairperson, together with my committee, we do not wish to proceed with the amendments.

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The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Faki, is the Committee dropping the amendments?

Sen. Faki: Yes, Madam Chairperson.

(Proposed amendment to Clause 10 withdrawn)

(Question, that Clause 10 be part of the Bill, proposed)

Division at the end.

Clauses 11, 12, 13 and 14

*(Question, that Clauses 11, 12, 13 and 14
be part of the Bill, proposed)*

Division at the end.

Clause 15

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Chairperson?

Sen. Faki: Madam Chairperson, upon consultation with the Committee, we do not wish to proceed with the amendments.

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): I propose the question that the amendments to Clause 15 be dropped as proposed by the Chairperson.

I put the question that the amendments to Clause 15 be dropped as proposed by the Chairperson.

(Proposed amendment to Clause 15 withdrawn)

(Question, that Clause 15 be part of the Bill, proposed)

Division at the end.

Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20

*(Question, that Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19 and
20 be part of the Bill, proposed)*

Division at the end.

Clause 21

(Question, that Clause 21 be part of the Bill, proposed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Chairperson?

Sen. Faki: Madam Temporary Chairperson, upon consultation with the Committee, we do not wish to proceed with the amendment.

(Proposed amendment to Clause 21 withdrawn)

(Question, that Clause 21 be part of the Bill, proposed)

Division at the end.

Clauses 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27

(Question, that Clauses 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 be part of the Bill, proposed)

Division at the end.

Clause 2

Sen. Faki: Madam Temporary Chairperson, upon consultation with the Committee, we do not wish to proceed with the amendments.

(Proposed amendment to Clause 2 withdrawn)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Division at the end.

The Title and Clause 1

(Question, that the Title and Clause 1 be part of the Bill, proposed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Division at the end.

Hon. Members, we have finished canvassing the clauses. We will now request that the Division Bell be rung for five minutes.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): You can stop the Division Bell. I think we have the numbers. Please, draw the Bar and close the doors.

(The Bar was drawn and the door closed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Members, you may now vote. Hon. Members, please vote.

(Voting in progress)

Sen. Kathuri and Sen. Korir, please come and vote.

*(Sen. Kathuri and Sen. Korir approached
the Clerks-at-the-Table and registered their votes)*

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, we have the results for this Division.

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

*(Question, that Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2, the Title and Clause 1 be part of the Bill put,
and the Senate proceeded to vote by County Delegations)*

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Ali Roba, Mandera County; Sen. Boy, Kwale County; Sen. Chemitei, Baringo County; Sen. Cherarkey, Nandi County; Sen. Cheruiyot, Kericho County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Kathuri, Embu County; Sen. Kajwang', Homa Bay County; Sen. Kinyua, Laikipia County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mandago, Uasin Gishu County; Sen. Mbugua, Nyandarua County; Sen. Mungatana, Tana River County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. (Dr.) Murango, Kirinyaga County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Seki, Kajiado County; Sen. Wafula, Bungoma County; Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County and Sen. Wambua, Kitui County.

AYES: 31

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 31 votes to Nil)

I now call the Mover. Chairperson, is it the Senate Majority Leader?

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Madam Temporary Chairperson, I beg to move that the Committee has considered the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025) and its approval thereof without amendments.

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The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, we have another division at Third Reading, so we are requesting that you do not move out until we finish.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Mumma): I now order that the doors be opened and the bars be drawn.

(The Bars were drawn and doors opened)

(The House resumed)

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) in the Chair]

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, I can see the Bar is already withdrawn. Can you also open the doors? Hon. Senators, kindly do not leave because we have another Division.

Chairperson to report.

REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

THE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.38 OF 2025)

Sen. Mumma: Hon. Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole has considered the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025) and its approval thereof without amendments.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Mover.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do agree with the Committee in the said report.

I request Sen. Olekina to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Olekina.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I second.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Kinyua, what is it you are doing on the chairs?

(Laughter)

(Question put and agreed to)

THIRD READINGTHE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.38 OF 2025)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Mover.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025) be now read a Third Time. I request Sen. Olekina to second.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I too second.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Olekina has never seconded any Bill without taking almost 20 minutes to second or to---

(Question proposed)

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Deputy Speaker)

Honourable Senators, you know I have been around for quite some time. The reason the Speaker pauses when the Bill is read a Third Time is to give an opportunity to any Member who wishes to contribute or to say something at that point, right? So, I must school some of the Senators who do not know why the Chair must pause.

(Question put and agreed to)

Members, we are going to the Division again, and I request that the Division Bell be rung for two minutes. If we have a Quorum, then we can proceed.

(The Division Bell was rung)

If we have a quorum, Serjeant-at-Arms, close the doors and draw the Bar.

(The door was closed and bar drawn)

Remember, I did put the question. So, we can go directly to the voting.

(Voting in progress)

DIVISION**ELECTRONIC VOTING**

(Question, that the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025), be now read a Third Time, put

and the Senate proceeded to vote by County Delegations)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Ali Roba, Mandera County; Sen. Boy, Kwale County; Sen. Chemitei, Baringo County; Sen. Cherarkey, Nandi County; Sen. Cheruiyot, Kericho County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Joe Nyutu, Murang'a County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kinyua, Laikipia County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. M. Kajwang', Homa Bay County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mandago, Uasin Gishu County; Sen. Mbugua, Nyandarua County; Sen. Mungatana, MGH, Tana River County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. (Dr.) Murango, Kirinyaga County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Seki, Kajiado County; Sen. Wafula, Bungoma County; Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County; and, Sen. Wambua, Kitui County.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Order, Senators. These are the results of the Third Reading of the Bill-

AYES: 31

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 31 votes to Nil)

(The Bill was accordingly read a Third Time and passed)

Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly, the door to be opened and the bars to be withdrawn.

(The door was opened and the Bars undrawn)

Honourable Senators, we now go back to the Order Paper. Clerk, we go to Order No.5.

Next Order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): There is a notice to be given by the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation.

(Several hon. Senators walked out of the Chamber)

Order, Senators. If you are retreating, kindly do it serenely.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TRAFFIC RULES, 2026 AND NTSA
(OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 2026

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I beg to give a notice of the following Motion-

THAT AWARE THAT, the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.2 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.13 of 2026); and the National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No.14 of 2026) were tabled in the Senate on 26th February 2026, and referred to the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation for consideration pursuant to Section 12(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act;

COGNIZANT THAT pursuant to section 15(1) and (2) of the Statutory Instruments Act the Committee is required to consider the regulations and make its determination within twenty-eight sitting (28) days after the date of referral of the instruments by the Senate which period will lapse on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026;

AWARE THAT Section 15(3) of the Statutory Instruments Act provides that, by a resolution, Parliament may extend the time for consideration of a Statutory Instrument by a period not exceeding twenty-one (21) calendar days;

NOTING THAT the Committee requires additional time to hold meetings with key stakeholders, including the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport;

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate, pursuant to Section 15(3) of the Statutory Instruments Act, resolves to extend the timeline for the consideration of the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.12 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.13 of 2026); and the National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No.14 of 2026) for a further twenty-one (21) Calendar days to enable the Committee to conclude its consideration on or before, Tuesday, 23rd June, 2026.

I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, again, I want to rearrange the Order Paper. We will defer Order Nos.7 and 8 for a while and proceed to Order No.9.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**STATEMENTS**

REPATRIATION OF REMAINS OF KENYANS WHO
DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN SOUTH SUDAN

STATUS OF OPERATIONALISATION OF
GAZETTED ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KENYA

LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SKATER,
KELVIN KIARIE AND OTHER ATHLETES

DISCOVERY OF TWO CHILDREN'S
BODIES IN KIAMA RIVER

DELAYED COMPLETION OF KAMBURU
WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KANTHENGE
DAM IN EMBU COUNTY

IRREGULAR DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
PROJECTS ON PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY LAND

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY PENSION FUND (CPF)

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY FOR
THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE,
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
AND SOCIAL WELFARE

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAND,
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL COHESION,
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
SECURITY, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE,
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TOURISM

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS,
TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY
PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

(Statements deferred)

BILL

First Reading

THE COUNTY ALLOCATION OF REVENUE BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.10 OF 2026)

(Bill deferred)

MOTION

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TRAFFIC RULES, 2026
AND NTSA (OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 2026

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): The Chairperson, Select Committee on Delegated Legislation.

Sen. Gatya Mo Fire: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to move the following Motion-

THAT AWARE THAT, the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 12 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No. 13 of 2026); and the National

Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No.14 of 2026) were tabled in the Senate on 26th February 2026, and referred to the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation for consideration pursuant to Section 12 (1) of the Statutory Instruments Act;

COGNIZANT THAT pursuant to section 15 (1) and (2) of the Statutory Instruments Act the Committee is required to consider the regulations and make its determination within twenty-eight sitting (28) days after the date of referral of the instruments by the Senate which period will lapse on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026;

AWARE THAT Section 15 (3) of the Statutory Instruments Act provides that, by a resolution, Parliament may extend the time for consideration of a Statutory Instrument by a period not exceeding twenty-one (21) calendar days;

NOTING THAT the Committee requires additional time to hold meetings with key stakeholders including the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport;

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate, pursuant to Section 15 (3) of the Statutory Instruments Act, resolves to extend the timeline for the consideration of the Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.11 of 2026); the Traffic (Drink-Driving) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.12 of 2026); the Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026 (Legal Notice No.13 of 2026); and the National Transport and Safety Authority (Operation of Commercial Vehicles) Regulations, 2026 (Legal Notice No.14 of 2026) for a further twenty-one (21) Calendar days to enable the Committee to conclude its consideration on or before, Tuesday, 23rd June, 2026.

I ask honourable Sen. Mungatana to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Mungatana Danson.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the honourable Chairperson, Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, for moving this Motion on extension of time.

(Sen. Cherarkey spoke off record)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I ask to be protected from Sen. Cherarkey.

(Sen. Kinyua spoke off record)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need to be protected from Sen. Kinyua.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Order, Sen. Kinyua and Sen. Cherarkey.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason that we seek this House to give us an extension of time at the Committee on Delegated Legislation is because there are four important traffic regulations and rules that are being introduced.

These rules will affect our daily lives. If we do not consider them properly at the Senate level, they will pass without us having looked at them properly.

The Traffic (School Transport) Rules, 2026 that have been proposed will add more costs to parents because it is proposed that more people be employed in every school transport. The regulations propose that the buses be fitted with more electronic gadgets, which will mean more money spent on school transport. We need to hear the National Parents Association (NPA), so that they tell us what they think about these proposed amendments.

The Traffic (Motor Vehicle Inspection) Rules, 2026, require that every car in Kenya that has more than four years will have to undergo inspection every two years. We know the rule is that we do not import cars into Kenya which are older than eight years. However, these regulations are proposing every car that is four years will have to undergo inspection.

As it is now, the only vehicles that are undergoing inspection are matatus, commercial vehicles, government vehicles and vehicles that carry school children. Now, every person who has a vehicle must undergo government inspection. We want to hear what the people of Kenya have to say. We want the people to come and make their presentations before the Committee on Delegated Legislation. If we do not get this extension, it means that these regulations will come into operation by law without the people of Kenya having been heard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am putting the context before the House that they approve the extension of time, so that Kenyans who have not come before the Committee can come and be heard. While I am still on this Floor, we urge the Inspector General (IG) of Police not to try and enforce inspection of vehicles which are over four years because those regulations are not yet passed. We have heard that they are trying to start enforcing these regulations even before they have gone through the processes within the Senate. I urge them not to do so, as the people of Kenya will have a lot to say about them.

Therefore, I urge the House to approve this Motion that we extend the time for consideration and hearing of all the stakeholders before these rules are adopted or rejected by the Committee. So far, we have had a few of them, but the time is not with us. We are proceeding on recess and we need to prepare to table this report in good time.

With those remarks, I second. I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Order, Senators. Order, Senate Majority Leader.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): There are Members interested to in contributing to this Motion.

Proceed, Sen. M. Kajwang’.

(Loud consultations)

This is a House of debate. Therefore, you must be patient. When Members want to say something on a matter they are interested in, you should give them that opportunity.

Sen. M. Kajwang’: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is fair even though this looks like a Procedural Motion. Ideally, this is not a Procedural Motion. When you extend time that is prescribed in the Standing Orders, it is no longer procedural, but substantive because there is a reason those timelines were put in place.

Whereas I rise to support the request because I know the Chairperson of the Committee and the Seconder of the Motion are men of good intentions, the only reason I have risen is that there is a problem when it comes to delineation of the role of the national Government and county governments when it comes to traffic control and management.

My Committee just returned from a visit to South Africa. While in South Africa, we sat with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Looking at the books of one of the metropolitan cities, it emerged that in that metropolitan city, the leadership decided to turn off instant fines and as a result the municipality lost R2 billion. You can imagine how much money that is. That is almost Kshs18 billion lost through instant fines that were turned off.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to point or raise the attention of this House that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution gives county governments the responsibility of county transport, including traffic and parking, street lighting, public roads transport *et cetera*. When the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) comes up with an instant fine system, is that a national or county function? We have seen in jurisdictions like South Africa that those then go to devolved or decentralised governments.

The reason I rose is to ask the Chairperson of the Committee that with the extension that we have given him, let him not allow the national Government to get away with functions that are clearly marked as county functions. I know this is a concurrent or a function assigned to both the national Government and county governments.

Part 1 (18) of the Fourth Schedule assigns the national Government transport and communication, including road traffic. Part 2 assigns county governments county transport, including traffic and parking. Let us not encourage a situation where the national Government monopolises issues to do with traffic, transport and parking. I hope that the Chairperson of the Committee will scrutinise these regulations and ensure that the national Government does not take them away.

Instant fines collected within Nairobi City County ideally should go to the County Revenue Fund (CRF) rather than to the national Government. That is the situation in other countries with similar devolved structures. If the Governor of Nairobi implements an instant fine system, Nairobi City County would pay all its obligations. Therefore, it will not have to rely on the national disbursements for it to continue operating.

I hope that we are not just ticking boxes. I hope that we are going to annul any regulation that attempts to take away the power of county governments. I hope that the Council of Governors (CoG) will come out strongly to ensure that we defend their territory as provided for in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the extension with that guidance to the Committee.

I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Fair enough. Proceed, Sen. Kisang.

Sen. Kisang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support the Motion seeking to extend the time of the Committee. From what the Chairperson and the Member who seconded the Motion said, the NTSA wants to come up with a raft of measures, especially doing inspection on all vehicles that are over four years since being manufactured.

If you go to the streets, I am sure you will find that over 95 per cent of the vehicles are over four years since they were manufactured. I do not know if the NTSA has the capacity to undertake inspection of all the vehicles, unless they want to use that particular avenue to raise money for themselves. If in the process they employ our youth, we will not have a problem with that.

We would like the Committee to undertake thorough public participation on these particular regulations, so that people do not go to court. Remember the other day when the NTSA and traffic police wanted to implement instant fines on the roads, people went to court to stop it because there was no proper public participation and engagement with the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should allow the Committee to have 21 more days they have requested, but they should do a thorough job, so that Kenyans do not go to court. As Kenyans, we are used to doing a lot of litigation. It is like our second job is to go to court.

I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, there is no other Senator wishing to contribute. Before I allow the Mover to reply, let me make this Communication.

(Interruption of Debate on Motion)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NKUENE GIRLS
SECONDARY SCHOOL, MERU COUNTY

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation of four teachers and 58 students from Nkuene Girls Secondary School in Meru County. The delegation is visiting the Senate for an academic exposition. On behalf of the Senate and on my one behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Senators, Nkuene Girls is a school located in a constituency that I served as the area Member of Parliament (MP) for 10 years. It does well in academics.

The Senator for Tharaka Nithi County is around. I would like to give him the opportunity to welcome the visitors from Nkuene Girls' School in my county, which I hold dearly.

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I join you in welcoming Nkuene Girls' Secondary School, which is one of the best performing schools currently in the entire Meru and Tharaka Nithi regions. We are proud of you as a region and country. This time around, I hope you will have some opportunity to interact with the big names in this country; the likes of so many Senators that you have been hearing on television and the media in general. This is the House of reason. We are the “upper House.”

I am happy that you have found time to come and join the Senators. You can see your Senator is sitting at the helm as our Speaker today. He is the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. I am also happy because I can see some future leaders among the students. I can see Senators, governors and all sorts of leadership in this delegation.

So, in this respect, we welcome you. I hope we shall have an engagement once you are out of this House. You are most welcome. Pass my regards to your parents once you go home. There is no difference between Tharaka Nithi and Meru counties. We are one people, except that administratively we come from different jurisdictions. I come from Tharaka Nithi County and your Senator is my very good friend. Tharaka Nithi and Meru are just one and the same.

You are most welcome, students and teachers from Nkuene Girls School. I know quite a number of students from my home county, Tharaka, who school in Nkuene Girls School.

Thank you.

(Resumption of debate on Motion)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): The Chairperson, the Senate Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, you can proceed and reply.

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank all the Members who have made very positive contributions towards this extension of time. We are seeking for extension purely to make sure that we thoroughly scrutinise these regulations. We want to invite all the stakeholders because these are very sensitive regulations. We have four regulations among them, the driving rules regulations and the school transport regulations.

The Chairperson of the Senate County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) has just captured quite a number of issues that this Committee is supposed to look at. That is where we are, and I am happy that the Members have agreed that this Committee should be given further 21 days to make sure that we thoroughly scrutinise these regulations, so that we can bring every stakeholder on board.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Clerk, can you confirm that we have quorum, so that we can put the question?

(The Clerk-at-the Table consulted with the Deputy Speaker)

Members, this matter does not concern counties. Therefore, I now put the question.

(Sen. Madzayo stood up in his place)

The Senate Minority Leader, you cannot just walk like you are walking in the streets of Kilifi County. Have your seat.

Hon. Senators, I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Senators, we are going back to Order No.7.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS

Sen. Veronica Maina, please, proceed.

(Sen. Veronica Maina spoke off record)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): You have that first priority because of reasons best known to me.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand.

DISCOVERY OF TWO CHILDREN'S BODIES AT KIAMA RIVER

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of county-wide concern regarding discovery of two unidentified bodies of children in Kiama River, Gatanga Constituency, on 10th May, 2026. Preliminary reports indicate that the victims are a boy, who was found without any clothing, estimated to be approximately 14 years old, and a girl estimated to be between five and nine years old. The identities of these children remain unknown and the circumstances surrounding their deaths are shrouded in mystery.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The current status of the investigation into the deaths of the two children, including whether a post-mortem examination has been conducted to determine the cause and approximate time of death.

(2) The immediate steps taken by the National Police Service to facilitate the identification of the deceased children, including whether the police have conducted systemic matching of reports of missing persons within Gatanga and neighbouring constituencies.

(3) The steps being taken to enhance security patrols along the Kiama River, the broader Kiriaini Location and Gatanga Constituency at large, to reassure residents of their safety.

(4) The mechanisms in place to assist the affected families once identified and to provide psychological support to the community members who discovered the bodies.

I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Ali Ibrahim Roba, please, proceed.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY PENSION FUND

Sen. Ali Roba: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on a matter of inter-county concern regarding administration of the County Pension Fund (CPF).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The information system in use for management of the County Pension Fund and related administrative affairs.

(2) The current number of pension contributors under the Fund and whether the contributors receive regular account statements and other updates relating to the accounts.

(3) Whether any part of the pension fund have been invested in construction projects and if so, obtain details of the performance of each completed project, progress of ongoing projects and any external financing arrangement related to these projects.

(4) The nature of other investments from the pension fund along with evidence that the investments are viable and that adequate measures have been put in place to safeguard against potential losses.

(5) The measures in place to protect members' contribution from mismanagement and corruption, and to guarantee that contributors receive their dues upon retirement or formal withdrawal.

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN KENYA

Sen. Consolata Wakwabubi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir for the opportunity. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on a matter of national concern regarding teenage pregnancies in Kenya.

Kenya recorded over 232,000 teenage pregnancies in 2025. Busia County has recorded over 65,000 cases, making it one of the most severely affected regions, followed by Nairobi, 14,291; Kakamega, 11,630; Nakuru, 10,934; Bungoma, 10,444, among others.

This crisis threatens education, entrenches poverty and strains healthcare systems. Beyond a public health emergency, it poses a labour and economic challenge that will affect national productivity and stability for decades. It undermines girls' education, limits their future participation in the workforce and perpetuates circles of vulnerability.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The socio-economic, cultural and systemic drivers behind teenage pregnancies across the country, including actions taken to mitigate the trends.

(2) The effectiveness of current interventions put in place to review school re-entry policies, adolescent health programmes and child protection frameworks, including the gaps identified in enforcement and resource allocation, particularly in ensuring teenage mothers continue their education without stigma or discrimination.

(3) The perspectives of stakeholders, including local leaders, educators, healthcare providers, parents and the affected teenagers on the scale and impact of the crisis, with emphasis on how teenage pregnancies disrupt education and limit future opportunities.

(4) How teenage pregnancies are affecting school completion rates, labour force participation, productivity and long-term economic development, with recommendations for policy reform that safeguard both education and livelihoods.

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KANTHENGE DAM IN EMBU COUNTY

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to request for statement from the Standing Committee on Energy on a matter of countywide concern regarding the proposed construction of Kanthenge Dam in Embu County.

While expanding power generation is essential to increasing national grid connectivity and while dam project can enhance agricultural productivity through irrigation, it is unacceptable for such a critical project to proceed without the clarity, transparency and due consideration for the people it will directly affect.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) Whether the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum will conduct a proper feasibility study to determine the dam's specifications, including its size, the extent of land coverage and the exact number of families that will be displaced or otherwise affected.

(2) The proportion of the local population that stands to directly benefit from the project, particularly through access to irrigation water and how this benefit will be equitably distributed.

(3) Whether Kanthenge Primary School is likely to be affected given that the school lie within the proposed project area and even so the immediate measures the Ministry has put in place to ensure that any relocation is carried out without disrupting running.

(4) The compensation mechanism established by the Ministry to guarantee proper, fair and adequate compensation for all affected land owners and residents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a second statement.

DELAYED COMPLETION OF KAMBURU
WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1), to request a statement from the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and National Resources on a matter of countywide concern regarding the delayed completion of the Kamburu Water Supply Project.

Residents across Embu County continue to endure acute and prolonged water shortages despite the allocation of substantial public funds to the project. This situation has raised concern over accountability. The pace of implementation of the project and the prudent use of public resources directly affects public health, livelihoods, economic activities and the overall welfare of the people of Embu County.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The current status of the Kamburu Water Supply Project, including the total funds allocated to the project since its inception.

(2) The official completion timeline as per the contract approved, budgetary allocation and detailed account of all funds disbursed to date, including payment meant to the contractor.

(3) The reason for the delay, any cost, variations, implementation, challenges encountered and a clear and revised timeline for the project completion.

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina) in the Chair]

LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SKATER
KELVIN KIARIE AND OTHER ATHLETES

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank You, Madam Speaker. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to request a statement from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on a matter of national concern regarding Government support for Kenyan skater Kelvin Kiarie and athletes participating in emerging and non-mainstream sports disciplines in Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker, Sir, the Kenyan skater---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Decide whether it is Madam Speaker or Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Sen. Cherarkey: I will stick with Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Okay.

Sen. Cherarkey: Madam Temporary Speaker, Kenyan skater, Kelvin Kiarie recently won gold and silver medals at the International Skating Challenge in Benin and double gold at the African Skating Championships in Egypt. We congratulate him. These victories were achieved without Government sponsorship or institutional support. The athlete relied on public appeals for financial assistance.

His journey reflects a broader problem in Kenyan sports. Individual triumphs in emerging disciplines often occur despite systemic neglect. While Kelvin's medals are a source of national pride, they also expose the lack of support for athletes outside mainstream sports such as football, rugby and sometimes athletics.

It was sad to see the only person who welcomed him was the wife and children. No person from the sports docket was present. If Kenya is to sustain its leadership in continental sports, it must ensure equitable recognition and support for all athletes, mainstream and emerging alike.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) Reasons for lack of financial, logistical or institutional support to Kelvin Kiarie by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, Sports Kenya, the Sports Fund or any other relevant agency.

(2) Whether the Government has a policy or framework for identifying, nurturing and supporting athletes in emerging and non-mainstream sports disciplines including skating.

(3) The criteria used in allocating sponsorship, funding and facilitation to athletes representing Kenya in international competitions and whether these criteria adequately cover emerging sports in the country.

(4) Details of budgetary allocations and expenditures towards emerging and non-mainstream sports disciplines over the last five financial years, including skating and related talent development programmes.

(5) The plans and strategies in place to establish training facilities, talent development programmes and sponsorship structures for skating and other emerging non-traditional sports.

(6) Policy interventions to be considered to ensure equitable support for athletes, sportsmen and women across all sports disciplines and whether the Government intends to formally recognise and support Kelvin Kiarie and others following his wonderful achievements.

I thank you, Madam Speaker without 'sir'.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Cherarkey, for finally calling me by the right title.

Sen. Joyce Korir, you may proceed to present the statement on behalf of Sen. Hillary Sigei.

REPATRIATION OF REMAINS OF KENYANS WHO DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN SOUTH SUDAN

Sen. Joyce Korir: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. On behalf of Sen. Wakili Sigei, I rise pursuant to the Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of national concern regarding repatriation of the remains of Kenyan nationals who died in a plane crash in South Sudan on 27th April, 2026.

On the morning of Monday, 27th April, 2026, a Cessna 208B Grand Caravan aircraft operated by the CityLink Aviation Limited departed Yei Airport in South Sudan

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at 9.15 a.m., Central African Time, enroute to Juba International Airport. At approximately 9.43 a.m., barely 28 minutes into the flight, air traffic control lost all the communication with the aircraft. The aircraft was later discovered to have crashed and its wreckage was found approximately 20 kilometers South West of Juba. South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority confirmed that all 14 passengers on board perished in the crash and were burnt beyond recognition.

The victims include two Kenyan nationals, Captain Francis Lagat Rutto from Chebole in Bomet County, Kipsonai Ward, Sotik Constituency, who was the pilot and Mr. Brian Mwenge from Lurambi Constituency, Kakamega County.

It is deeply concerning that more than two weeks since this tragedy, the remains of the two Kenyan nationals have not been repatriated to their families for proper and dignified last rites and burial.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The specific steps taken by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to facilitate the identification and repatriation of the remains of Captain Francis Lagat Rutto and Mr. Brian Mwenge.

(2) The expected timelines for the repatriation, including the indication of the persons bearing the responsibility for the associated costs.

(3) Whether the Ministry has established and maintained a communication channel with the affected families to ensure that they receive timely and real-time updates regarding the identification and repatriation process, as well as the status of the investigation into the accident.

(4) Whether the Ministry has extended the necessary consular support to the next of kin of the deceased Kenyans to facilitate their involvement in the identification and repatriation process.

(5) Diplomatic representation Kenya has made to safeguard the interests of the affected families, including whether the Ministry has formally requested the preliminary accident report.

From Sen. Wakili Sigei, Bomet County.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Joyce Korir. Sen. Mwenda Gataya, you have a statement?

Sen. Gataya Mo'Fire: Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Okay, proceed.

STATUS OF OPERATIONALISATION OF GAZETTED ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of national concern regarding the status of operationalisation, funding and infrastructure for newly gazetted administrative units across the country.

In November, 2024, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, through Gazette Notice No.15341, established 578 new administrative units comprising of 27

sub-counties, 59 divisions, 170 locations and 322 sub-locations to bring Government services closer to the people, particularly in underserved areas. However, many of these units remain non-operational due to inadequate funding, lack of office infrastructure, insufficient staffing and poor connectivity thereby undermining effective administration and service delivery, especially in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) counties.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The criteria and the framework used to identify and gazette the new administrative units, including whether financial and operational viability assessments were conducted and provide a breakdown of budgetary allocations for the 2025/2026 Financial Year, indicating amounts allocated, disbursed, and utilized up to date.

(2) The number of newly gazetted administrative units currently lacking physical office and the measures being taken to address the challenge.

(3) Look at whether there are plans to construct and equip offices for all gazetted units lacking in infrastructure, including timelines for completion.

(4) Look at the current staffing levels in the newly gazetted units and the measures being taken to ensure provision of adequate personnel.

(5) Look at the affirmative action measures being implemented to prioritise funding, infrastructure and staff deployment to the newly administration units in ASALs and other marginalised counties.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Mwenda Gataya.

Sen. Alexander Mundigi, proceed.

RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON UNLAWFUL REMOVAL
OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY STAFF FROM PAYROLL IN ISIOLO COUNTY

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1) on a statement requested by a Senator from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.

At the sitting of the Senate held on Wednesday, 6th May, 2026, the Speaker directed the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to provide a response to the House on a statement sought by Sen. Fatuma Dullo, CBS, MP, regarding the unlawful removal of County Assembly staff from their payroll and denial of salaries and benefits in Isiolo County, not later than Wednesday, 13th May, 2026.

The committee wrote a correspondence to the Governor of Isiolo County on 3rd March, 2026 and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Isiolo on 2nd April, 2026 to submit a response to the statement. The committee received a response from the Governor of Isiolo County, through a letter dated 13th March, 2026, which was shared with the Senator for consideration and comment. However, the response from the Clerk of the County Assembly of Isiolo remained outstanding despite follow-up on 22nd April, 2026 and 7th May, 2026.

The committee remains seized of the matter and shall share a comprehensive report with the Senate and the Senator upon receipt of the response from the Clerk of the County Assembly.

Madam Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have another statement from the Committee on Labour and Social Justice.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Proceed.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON
LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No. 56(1)(B) to make a statement relating to the activities of the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare for the period between February and April, 2026.

During the period under review, the committee held a total of 22 sittings, during which it considered 17 statements, one Bill and two Petitions. In executing its mandate, the committee focused on key social and labour matters within its limit, with particular emphasis on Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) enforcement, persons' oversight and governance, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide.

The Committee also hosted a delegation from the Portfolio Committee on Social Development of the Limpopo Legislation, South Africa, aimed at gaining insight into Kenya's approach to GBV, with particular focus on the policy, legal and institutional framework interventions.

The legislative business under consideration by the committee is attached in Appendix 1.

On Bills, during the period under review, the committee concluded consideration of the Public Service Internship Bill, 2022 (National Assembly Bills No.63 of 2022). The Bill expressed a structured framework for managing internship programmes in the public sector by studying recruitment, supervision, duration and compensation of interns. It is anchored on constitutional principles of youth empowerment, fair labour practises and socio-economic rights and seeks to address existing constraints in internship administration across public institutions.

On Statements, during the period under review, the committee received 17 new statements that cut across key thematic areas of labour relations, social protection and worker welfare at both national and county levels, including staffing dispute, lay-off, recruitment malpractices, insurance coverage, unpaid benefits, use of development funds, industrial unrest and compliance with labour standards. The committee shared the responses received with the Senators who requested for the statements and supplementary issues raised were followed upon with the relevant ministries and agencies.

On Petitions, the committee remained seized of two petitions, namely, the Inaccessibility of Public Buildings and Offices by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Mombasa County and the Winding Up and Requisition of the Technical University of Kenya Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme.

The Technical University of Kenya Staff Retirement Benefits Scheme petition has required sustained and detailed engagement with trustee-sponsoring institutions, regulators and affected members.

Regarding resources, the committee has intensified oversight on occupational safety and health, noting rising workplace accidents, unsafe conditions and gaps in enforcement of safety standards following a recent inspection visit to the construction site at the Bomas of Kenya. The committee will undertake further county inspection visits in the next part of the session to strengthen compliance, accountability and worker protection nationwide.

The committee also examined labour immigration, recruitment system and the welfare of Kenya's workers, both locally and abroad, amid concerns of over-exploitation, unethical recruitment and inadequate worker protection.

To address these issues, the committee is scheduled to meet with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, and the National Employment Authority (NEA) to strengthen labour migration.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Veronica, you will read your own Statement and may proceed to read the one for the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights (JLAHRC).

EXPULSION OF FEMALE RECRUITS FROM
THE NATIONAL POLICE COLLEGE, KIGANJO

Sen. Veronica Maina: Madam Temporary Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I am reading a request for a statement on the expulsion of female recruits from the National Police College, Kiganjo, on account of pregnancy.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of national concern regarding the expulsion of 18 female recruits from the National Police College, Kiganjo, on account of pregnancy.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the National Police Service, based the decision on its existing training regulations and justified it on account of the physically demanding nature of police training. This reflects a deeply concerning lack of gender sensitivity and institutional responsiveness towards women, particularly expectant mothers seeking opportunities in the public service and professional advancement.

Pregnancy is neither misconduct nor incapacity and motherhood must never be construed as a disqualification from service, leadership or employment. The expulsion of these young women sends a disturbing and regressive message that women are still expected to choose between their biological realities and their aspirations to serve this nation. Such an approach undermines the constitutional principles of equality, inclusivity and social justice enshrined under Articles 27, 28 and 41 of the Constitution.

The continued implementation of such policies and practices that disproportionately disadvantage women demonstrate the urgent need for stronger gender-sensitive reforms within the National Police Service and across the public service.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The assessment of the legal standing of the provision of the National Police Service training regulations that was the basis for the expulsion of 18 female recruits from the National Police College, Kiganjo, on account of pregnancy, in view of the principles of equality, inclusivity and social justice enshrined under Articles 27, 28, and 41 of the Constitution.

(2) Whether the National Police Service has considered adopting gender-responsive recruitment and training policies that reasonably accommodate expectant recruits.

(3) Whether the National Police Service could also consider reviewing other institutional frameworks and administrative policies, including the Police Standing Orders, to ensure alignment with the Constitution and Kenya's international obligations relating to gender equality and women's rights.

(4) The safeguards in place to prevent discriminatory practices against women within public institutions, particularly based on pregnancy or maternal status.

Sen. Veronica Maina, CBS, MP, Nominated Senator and Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA), having been commissioned by KEWOSA to present this statement, to ensure that the recruits are given an opportunity to return to Kiganjo after giving birth.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LEGAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Madam Temporary Speaker, thank you once again for the opportunity to present the statement relating to the activities of the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights for the period between 10th February to 30th April, 2026, pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) of the Senate Standing Orders.

During the period under review, the Committee held a total of 20 sittings, during which it considered one legislative proposal, three Bills, one Petition, eight Statements and one inquiry. The committee also followed up on the implementation of Senate resolutions directed to the committee.

The committee considered and submitted its comments on one legislative proposal, namely the Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2026, sponsored by Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei, CBS, MP. The Draft Bill seeks to provide timelines for the making of statutory instruments by regulation-making authorities.

On Bills, during the reporting period, the committee continued with its consideration of two Bills to amend the Constitution, namely the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Senate Bills No.13 of 2025) and the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025 (Senate Bills No.16 of 2025).

The committee also commenced consideration of another Bill, namely, the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2026, (Senate Bills No.7 of 2026). The committee received extensive submissions on the three Bills. One seeks to implement the two-thirds gender principle in Parliament and another seeks to bar persons who have served as governors from contesting for election as Senators or MCAs immediately upon

conclusion of their term. The committee will be retreating soon to consider the said submissions and to adopt its reports thereon for tabling in the Senate.

On Petitions, having dispensed with all other Petitions that were pending before it during the last session, the committee considered one Petition by Mr. Laban Omusudi regarding the enactment of a legal framework to provide for citizen-initiated recall of the President and county governors. In addition to meeting with the petitioner, the committee invited and received submissions from key state and non-state actors on the proposals contained in the Petition. We are scheduled to consider the submissions, following which the committee will adopt and table its report in the Senate.

On Statements, the committee considered 12 requests for Statements during the reporting period, comprising eight Statements which were carried over from the last session and four Statements which were newly sought from the committee. We have adopted a two-pronged strategy to finalise the Statements, entailing both writing to the relevant agencies to invite responses and scheduling meetings with them on a case-by-case basis to deliberate on the issues arising from the Statements.

On inquiry, the committee continued with its inquiry into the legal status of indigenous peoples in Kenya and expanded this to cover the status and human rights of minorities and marginalised communities as well. I am happy to report that we held a productive meeting with the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the Minorities and Marginalised Affairs Unit at the Executive Office of the President, where we deliberated on these issues. We have scheduled further meetings in the coming month with the two entities, as well as other state and non-state actors. At the end, we shall prepare our report for tabling and debate in the Senate.

On implementation of Senate resolutions, the committee continued with tracking the implementation of Senate resolutions directed to the committee, including the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Shakahola and the Senate Resolution on the State of the Nation. The committee also followed up on the implementation of resolutions contained in reports on petitions.

In conclusion, Madam Temporary Speaker, I wish to thank your office and that of the Clerk for the continuous support accorded to the committee in undertaking its work. I also wish to thank Members of the committee for their commitment, diligence and insightful contribution during the committee activities.

The Chairperson of the Committee is Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei and I am the Vice-Chairperson. Just to remind the House, this is the most effective Committee of the Senate.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Veronica Maina, that might be a contentious statement. Hon. Senators, allow me to interrupt the Statement for a short while to allow Sen. Nyamu to lay a report on the Table of the Senate.

(Interruption of Statements)

PAPER LAIDREPORT ON THE FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
AMENDMENT BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO. 38 OF 2025)

Sen. Nyamu: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I beg to lay the following paper on the Table of the Senate, today, Thursday, 14th May, 2026-

Report of the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources on the Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Bill (National Assembly Bills No.38 of 2025).

(Sen. Nyamu laid the document on the Table)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): We are back to the Statements. We will hear from Sen. Cherarkey.

(Resumption of Statements)

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I want to comment on two statements. One is---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, just hold on, we consult.

Sincere apologies. Sen. Mwaruma was next.

Sen. Mwaruma: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker for the opportunity to go through my Statements. I have three Statements.

DELAYED COMPLETION OF MTOMWAGODI-MBALE-WUNDANYI-
WERUGHA-MGANGE-BURA ROAD IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

The first Statement is on the delayed completion of Mtomwagodi-Mbale-Wundanyi-Werugha-Mgange-Bura Road in Taita Taveta County.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No. 53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing on a matter of countywide concern regarding the status of construction of the 55kilometre Mtomwagodi-Mbale-Wundanyi-Werugha-Mgange-Bura Road in Taita Taveta County.

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina) in the Chair]

This project was launched and commissioned on 1st November, 2021 at a budgeted cost of Kshs2.2 billion and was intended to serve Bura, Rong'e, Mgange wards while linking Wundanyi Township to the Mwatate Taveta Highway and Bura Ward and

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the Voi Mwatate Highway at Mtomwagodi. Despite repeated inspection visits by senior Government officials, the road remains incomplete.

In the statement the committee should address the following-

(1) The current status of the project, including the extent of works completed, sections cleared and gravelled and those upgraded to bitumen standards.

(2) The reasons for the delay in completion of the project as well as expected completion date of the project.

(3) Whether the road cuts through private land and if so, the identity of all affected persons and institutions including the number and sizes of the parcels.

(4) The measures in place to compensate the persons affected by the project as well as the timelines for such compensation.

NON-REMITTANCE OF STAFF DEDUCTIONS AND OTHER PAYABLES
BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA

Sen. Mwaruma: Madam Temporary Speaker, the second Statement is on the remittance of staff deductions and other payables by the County Government of Taita Taveta.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on a matter of countywide concern regarding the non-remittance of staff deductions and other payables by the County Government of Taita Taveta.

There has been continued delay and non-remittance of staff payables, including loan repayments to banks and Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), contributions to superannuation institutions and other contractual deductions due from staff salaries. This has exposed staff of the County Government of Taita Taveta to financial penalties, adverse listing by lending institutions, delayed access to benefits and prolonged uncertainty for the retirees and officers nearing retirement. The continued non-remittance of these obligations despite deductions having been made from staff salaries has affected service delivery and caused financial distress among employees of the County Government of Taita Taveta.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The number and particulars of the institutions owed staff deductions and other payables by the County Government of Taita Taveta including the annual bill and outstanding amount owed to each institution.

(2) The total amount of pending staff payables, including but not limited to salaries and allowances disaggregated by category and month from 2024 to date, including reasons for the delay or failure by the County Government of Taita Taveta to remit staff deductions and other payables to the respective institutions.

(3) The measures in place by the County Government to settle outstanding staff deductions and payables, including amounts owed in respect of retired officers and officers nearing retirement.

(4) The administrative or disciplinary action, if any, taken against officers found culpable for negligence, mismanagement or failure to remit staff deductions and other payables when due.

Let me proceed to my third statement.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AT DEVKI STEEL MILLS
MANUFACTURING PLANT IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

Madam Temporary Speaker, the last Statement is on employment practices at the Devki steel mills manufacturing plant in Taita Taveta County.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism on a matter of country-wide concern regarding the employment practices of the Devki Steel Mills Manufacturing Plant in Taita Taveta County.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The Government's policy or framework on the employment of local residents by private companies in the counties in which they operate, including whether any quota is reserved for the local communities.

(2) Whether Devki Steel Mills Plant in Taita Taveta County has complied with that policy.

I thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Hon. Senator. Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, you can read the final Statement under Standing Order No. 53(1) before we move to Standing Order No.56 (1).

DISCLOSURE AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF
CARBON CREDIT PROJECTS IN SAMBURU COUNTY

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. This is a request for a Statement on the status, transparency, disclosure and community benefits of carbon credit projects in Samburu County.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources on a matter of countywide concern regarding growing concerns over the secrecy or limited disclosure of community benefits arising from carbon credit and carbon market projects operating within Samburu County and other pastoral regions of Kenya.

While these projects are expanding under global climate initiatives, local communities - the primary custodians of these lands - remain largely uninformed about agreement, terms, revenues and long-term impacts on land rights and livelihoods. Despite providing the resources that attract international financing, there is a troubling lack of public disclosure regarding contractual obligations, entered carbon valuation and the actual percentage of benefits reaching local communities.

This secrecy risks the exploitation of indigenous and pastoral communities, elite capture of climate financing benefits, future land injustices and the exclusion of local communities from decision-making processes affecting their ancestral lands.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The names and implementing entities, ownership structures and specific geographical locations of all carbon credit or carbon trading projects currently operating within Samburu County, including the legal frameworks, duration and contractual arrangements in respect of each project.

(2) The total carbon credits generated and total revenues earned from carbon credit projects in Samburu County since inception, including a detailed breakdown of the actual financial benefits received by local communities, community institutions, county governments, intermediaries, implementing agencies and private entities involved.

(3) The measures and procedures used to secure free, prior and informed consent from pastoral communities before the execution of carbon credit agreements, including whether affected communities were adequately informed and sensitised on the long-term environmental, economic, land use, grazing and cultural implications of such projects.

(4) The reasons for the limited public disclosure and transparency regarding carbon credit agreements, revenue flows, carbon pricing mechanisms, valuation methodologies, and community benefit-sharing agreements in Samburu County, despite the projects utilising community and ancestral lands.

(5) The policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional measures put in place by the Government to protect pastoral communities in Samburu County from exploitation, inequitable benefit-sharing, land dispossession, elite capture and exclusion from decision-making processes within the carbon credit and carbon trading market.

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi. We are moving to statements pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b). I want to call the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy, Sen. Kisang, to make a statement relating to the activities of the committee for the period February to April, 2026.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Sen. Kisang: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) to make a statement on the activities of the Standing Committee on Energy for the first quarter of the Fifth Session, covering the period commencing 1st January to 30th April, 2026.

During the period under review, the committee held a total of 39 sittings. During this time, it considered and concluded the ratification of the Production Sharing Contracts and Field Development Plan for Blocks T6 and T7 in the South Lokichar Basin, and commenced an inquiry into the petroleum crisis in the country.

During the period under review, the committee considered and concluded four statements. Eight statements are pending consideration by the committee. Responses on

the pending statements have been forwarded to the relevant Senators and are awaiting consideration by the committee.

The committee examined the Production Sharing Contracts and the Field Development Plan for Blocks T6 and T7 in the South Lokichar Basin, Turkana County, considered public submissions, engaged key stakeholders and reviewed technical analysis. It also conducted public participation in Turkana County, West Pokot County, Uasin Gishu County, Trans Nzoia County, Lamu County and Mombasa County, capturing the views of the affected communities and stakeholders.

Arising from this process, the committee recommended the fast-tracking of regulations for the Petroleum Revenue Fund, the strengthening of the National Oil Corporation of Kenya, the establishment of permanent security along the transport corridor and the commissioning of a special Auditor-General's report on the Early Oil Pilot Scheme (EOPS) to inform cost control in the Full Field Development Plan.

The committee met with the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Petroleum and received submissions from various State agencies on the 2026 Budget Policy Statement.

The committee also considered proposed policies, programmes, expenditure ceilings for the 2025/2026 budget implementation status, financial and output performance, capital project status, key policy foundations, performance targets and project allocations.

Key recommendations by the committee on the 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) are that-

(a) The State Department for Petroleum submits to the Senate a detailed status report on the Lokichar-Lamu crude oil pipeline, including the current implementation status and justification for continued or future budgetary allocations.

(b) The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum submits to the Senate a detailed status report on all ongoing energy public-private partnership (PPP) projects, highlighting progress, risk mitigation measures, foreign exchange exposure management and expected completion timelines.

(c) The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum should clarify how the proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund policy aligns with Section 57 of the Petroleum Act, 2019 and outline the institutional framework for managing petroleum revenues to avoid overlaps and duplication.

In the previous session, the committee commenced an inquiry into the handling of the Mombasa cooking gas handling facility by Asharami Energy, focusing on the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum's adherence to legal procedures and engaging the National Treasury on compliance with public-private partnership requirements.

The committee also conducted oversight visits in Mombasa County, where it engaged the Kenya Maritime Authority and inspected the maritime tanker route to assess oil pollution risks and in Kisumu County, where it inspected energy and petroleum facilities, reviewed electricity connectivity, noting coverage at 68 per cent, and evaluated progress on street lighting, solar transition and last-mile electrification.

In the coming quarter, the committee will conclude its inquiry into the 2015 Kenya Pipeline oil spill into River Thange in Makueni County, focusing on

environmental and public health impacts, compliance and remedial and enforcement measures.

The committee also plans to visit Tana River and Siaya counties to review power bypasses, flooding impacts linked to KenGen Grid and off-grid supply and preparatory work for the proposed nuclear power plant in Siaya County, including suitability, stakeholder engagement and alignment with national planning.

Further, the committee will steer preparations for the County Energy Forum (CEF) expected in the course of this year, including a joint conference with the Senate, the Council of Governors (CoG), county executives, and the County Assemblies Energy Caucus (CAEC) to align county priorities on devolved energy functions, wayleaves, tariffs, clean energy, and intergovernmental coordination.

I wish to thank your office for the support accorded to the committee in undertaking its work. I also want to acknowledge the support that the committee has received from its secretariat and the Office of the Clerk. Lastly, I wish to commend the Members of the committee for their commitment, diligence and dedication to the work and mandate of the committee.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Kisang. The next is statement pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology relating to the activities of the committee for the period February to April 2026.

Sen. Cherarkey, proceed, on behalf of the Chairperson.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. This is a quarterly statement relating to the activities of the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology for the period between February to April, 2026, pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) of the Senate Standing Orders.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) of the Senate Standing Orders to make a statement for the first quarter of the Fifth Session covering activities of the Standing Committee on Information Communication and Technology undertaken for the period February to April, 2026.

Madam Temporary Speaker, during the period under review, the committee held a total of 15 sittings which it considered two Bills, five statements and one inquiry.

(a) The committee considered The Electronic Equipment Disposal Recycling and Reuse (Senate Bills No.5 of 2025) sponsored by Sen. Peris Tobiko, MP, which was published vide Kenya Gazette Supplement No.67 of 9th May 2025. The Bill was introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 and subsequently stood committed to the committee for consideration.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the committee considered the Bill taking into account the views and recommendations of the public and the report is on the progress of being tabled in the Senate. During consideration of the Bill, the committee observed,

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among other things, that there is need for inclusion of the polluter pays principle and zero waste principle and the principle of prioritizing the extension of electrical and electronic equipment triple e-lifespan over material recovery. These are non-negotiable guiding principles of the national legislation forming the legal basis for the extended producer responsibility system.

The committee is currently considering the Artificial Intelligence Bill (Senate Bills No.4 of 2026) sponsored by Sen. Karen Nyamu, MP, which was introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading on Thursday, 21st April, 2026 and thereafter stood committed to the committee for consideration. The Bill advertised inviting submissions from the stakeholders and the public in three newspapers with national circulation. The committee soonest considered submissions received here on from the public and formulate its report.

Madam Temporary Speaker, on statements, five statements from the committee are undergoing consideration. The committee considers statements through physical sittings with the stakeholders and the respective Senators who made the request while in other instances received written submissions and shared responses with respective Senators.

One statement sought by yours truly Samson Cherarkey, MP, on the status of digitisation of government services was considered by the committee. The committee resolved to invite all Ministries, Departments and Agencies called MDAs to apprise the committee on the status and implementation of digitisation of government services under their respective mandate.

On inquiries on county visits, under the current period, the committee has conducted county oversight and networking engagement visits in its process of considering the inquiry into the operation of the Information Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and other county revenue collection and management systems in four counties namely Nakuru, Narok, Kericho and Kakamega.

The committee is particularly interested in presentations on each county revenue collection and management system, focusing on system overview, integration with IFMIS effectiveness in revenue collection, key strengths and challenges, operational cost sustainability and any planned future improvements with the aim of investigating revenue leakages through the county's revenue collection systems and avenues.

The committee held a meeting with the ICT Authority to deliberate on the impact of county wayleaves as well as regulatory and operational barriers affecting the deployment of ICT infrastructure and the expansion of broadband connectivity across the counties.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your office and that of the Clerk of the Senate for the continuous support accorded to the committee in undertaking its work. Lastly, I wish to profoundly thank the Members of the committee, one of the best committees, for their commitment, diligence and contribution to assist the committee achieve its mandate. This is the best committee followed by the Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee (JLAHRC).

I thank you Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Cherarkey, also for admitting that JLAHRC is effective.

We now move on to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to make a statement relating to the activities of the committee for the period February to April, 2026.

Sen. Mwenda Gataya has the brief from the Chairperson. You may proceed to the Dispatch Box.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
DEFENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I am rising on behalf of the Chairperson, Sen. Fatuma Dullo, who also happens to be a close friend and neighbour. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) of the Senate Standing Orders to make a statement relating to the activities of the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations for the period of February to April, 2026.

During the period under review, the committee held 15 sittings where it considered various Statements, Petitions, Motions, Session Papers, inquiries and stakeholder engagement as set out below-

(a) Legislative Proposal and Bills

The committee did not consider any legislative proposal or Bill during the period under review.

(b) Statements

The committee considered 34 statements during the reporting period. Four statements were concluded while 30 remain outstanding, pending written responses from relevant stakeholders. A list of the statements is attached as Annex 1.

(c) Petitions

The committee is presently considering two petitions namely petition by Sen. Andrew Omtatah Okoiti, MP, concerning compensation of police officers injured in line of duty.

The committee is also looking at the petition by the Tom Mboya Ochieng, CPM, concerning forced disappearances of young fishermen at Lake Nakuru National Park. The committee held deliberations with the petitioners and relevant stakeholders and is scheduled to conclude consideration of the petitions and the table reports in the senate.

(d) Motions

The committee considered resolutions of the Senate arising from the adoption of the Motion on the current state of the nation. The committee engaged relevant stakeholders and received written submissions of the matter. The draft report is pending consideration and adoption prior to tabling in the Senate.

(e) Sessional Papers

During the reporting period the committee considered the foreign policy of the Republic of Kenya. The committee concluded consideration of the sessional paper and tabled a report on the Senate on that 1st March 2026.

(f) Inquiries

The committee further considered three inquiries during the reporting period namely; the surge in violent crimes in Kenyan cities; Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Eldoret; firefighting and disaster management by devolved governments and preparedness and mitigation on missions in place to address the starvation and loss of livestock arising from the prolonged drought affecting ASALs region of the country. The committee is currently receiving supplementary submissions of the inquiry drought mitigation and livestock laws are scheduled to commence consideration of the remaining inquiries in the next quarter.

On the matter of other activities, during the period under review, the committee further held a meeting with the Inspector General of the National Police Service and Director of Criminal Investigations regarding threats to the security of Sen. Fatuma Dullo, CBS, MP, including a shooting incident targeting a convoy in Isiolo as well as the attack on Sen. Godfrey Osotsi, CBS, MP, at West End Mall in Kisumu County.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration conveyed his apologies and rescinded to appear before the committee on 21st May 2026.

On the same other activities, the committee held a meeting with the Inspector General of the National Police Service on the degazettement of Capitol Hill Police Station following which they resolved to invite the Prime Cabinet Secretary, the Attorney General and the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning to clarify the procedures that are taken in the assessment process.

The committee held a meeting with the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA) to deliberate on its mandate, challenges, legislative gaps and a proposal for an opportunity for collaboration during the remainder of the 13th Parliament.

The committee attended the Mashariki Cooperation Conference held in Diani, Kwale County on 26th April and held a report writing retreat to consider the draft reports on the matters before the committee.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your office for the support accorded to the committee in undertaking its work. I also wish to acknowledge the Secretariat's support received from the Office of the Clerk. Lastly, I wish to commend Members of the committee for their utmost dedication and commitment to duty.

I thank you.

The Temporary Chairperson (Sen. Veronica Maina): Next is Sen. Mbugua to stand in for the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism to make a statement relating to the activities of the committee for the period February to April, 2026.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRIALISATION
AND TOURISM FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Sen. Mbugua: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. On behalf of the Chairman, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) to make a statement relating to the activities of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism for the first quarter of the Fifth Session covering the period between February to April, 2026.

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During the period under review, the committee held 18 sittings during which it considered 27 Statements, two Bills and conducted two inquiries. The committee began an enquiry into the County Aggregated Industrial Parks (CAIPs) in Phase 1. There were 19 counties that had Kshs500 million allocated to the construction of the CAIPs and the deadline for competition was July 2025.

During this inquiry, the committee established that most counties received a feasibility plan from the national government and not specific to county challenges. Additionally, the committee noted that some counties had exceeded the Kshs500 million allocation. The inquiry is still ongoing and the committee will table a report upon conclusion.

The committee is reviewing the process of leasing of public sugar companies, namely Nzoia Sugar Company, Chemil Sugar Company, Sony Sugar Company and Muhoroni Sugar Company. Additionally, the committee is reviewing the repackaging of 27,000 metric tonnes of industrial sugar to domestic use without additional refining.

During this period, the following Bills were considered by the committee-

(1) The Startup Bill, 2022, (Senate Bill No.14 of 2022).

(2) The Cooperatives Bill, 2024, (National Assembly Bill No.7 of 2024).

The committee considered the amendments by the National Assembly on the Startup Bill, 2022, with the Mover of the Bill. The committee rejected some amendments made by the National Assembly on the Bill. A Mediation Committee has been constituted, but the first meeting is yet to be convened.

The Cooperatives Bill (National Assembly Bills No.7 of 2024) is a Bill that seeks to revamp the cooperatives in line with the current times. Given the recent challenges experienced by the SACCOs, this Bill is timely. The committee has received communication from the National Assembly advising that the amendments from the Senate on the Bill have been declined. A Mediation Committee to consider the Bill will be constituted.

Madam Temporary Speaker, during consideration of statements, the committee observed that there was an increasing number of statements pending before it that required the attention of the relevant cabinet secretaries and governors. The committee has therefore scheduled to invite the cabinet secretaries and governors to apprise the committee on the status of the pending statements relating to their specific mandates. The committee will prioritise the finalisation of these pending statements and other legislative business before it.

The committee will continue with its oversight of the counties through the scheduled county oversight inspection and networking visits and public engagements to ensure continued implementation of programmes and legislative business within its mandate. In particular, the committee will visit the CAIPs, tourism facilities and markets in the counties. Additionally, the committee will finalise on the inquiry on the leasing of public sugar mills.

Madam Temporary Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to thank your office and the Office of the Clerk of the Senate for the support accorded to the committee in its work in executing its mandate. Lastly, I wish to thank the members of the committee for their

diligence and contribution during the committee activities and committee secretariat for their facilitative responsibility.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): Thank you, Sen. Mbugua. Do you have a report from the County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee (CPI&SFC), so that you can finish with it?

Sen. Mbugua: Yes, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina): You can make the statement relating to the activities of the CPI&SF for the period February to April, 2026.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY
PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS

Sen. Mbugua: Madam Temporary Speaker, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds (CPI&SF), I rise pursuant to Starting Order No.56(1)(b) to make a statement on the activities of the CPI&SFC for the period commencing 1st January, 2026 to 31st March, 2026.

The committee examined 516 reports tabled by the Auditor-General in the Senate as of December, 2025 relating to county government entities for the Financial Year 2024/2025. These entities include county water service providers, urban areas and cities municipalities, Level 4 and Level 5 hospitals in counties, special funds established by counties and other county entities such as the authorities and the corporations.

Madam Temporary Speaker, pursuant to Article 229(8) of the Constitution and following the High Court judgement affirming the mandatory nature of constitutional timelines in the audit process, the committee and the Senate at large undertook deliberate measures to align their procedures and operations with the aim of meeting the timelines. Some of the measures adopted by the committee include-

- (1) Early resumption of committee sittings.
- (2) Establish sub-committees to expedite consideration of the reports.
- (3) Request for additional resources such as additional support staff and support officers from the partner organisations.
- (4) Timely release of invitation letters to governors by December, 2026.

The committee successfully examined all the Auditor-General's reports and tabled its report for the 47 counties in the Senate, which were subsequently adopted by the House within the statutory deadline of 31st March. The resolutions by the Senate have since been transmitted to the respective county governments and the relevant oversight agencies for implementation.

The committee shall commence compliance follow-ups upon expiration of the timelines. This marks a significant institutional milestone, as a timely consideration and action of the Auditor-General's reports demonstrate that the Senate fully complied with the constitutional requirement under Article 229(8) to consider and take appropriate action on audit reports within the three months of receipt.

Madam Temporary Speaker, while examining the Auditor-General's reports for various county entities, the committee identified several cross-cutting issues affecting

multiple sectors and developed general recommendations which are comprehensively outlined in the summary report adopted by the House.

The key challenges observed include-

(1) Water sector persistent challenges in the management of receivables and payables, high levels of non-revenue water and concerns regarding the financial sustainability of water service providers.

(2) On Level 4 and 5 hospitals, difficulties in meeting the standards of the Kenya quality model for healthcare, particularly with respect to adequate medical personnel and critical equipment and delays or shortfalls in reimbursement from the Social Health Authority.

(3) On municipalities and cities, ongoing challenges in the full operationalisation of the urban areas as envisaged under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, including gaps in governance structures and implementation of delegated functions.

(4) Regarding county funds, weaknesses in loan recovery mechanisms for revolving funds undermine their sustainability and establishment of multiple funds with overlapping mandate.

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Veronica Maina) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma) in the Chair]

Madam Temporary Speaker, the committee encountered significant challenges arising from the strict constitutional requirement to consider and conclude audit reports within the three months. This compressed timeframe limited the duration available for hearings, analysis of complex audit issues and internal deliberations, thereby placing considerable pressure on the committee's operations. The high volume of audit reports further compounded these constraints.

The committee was required to examine 516 reports, covering county water service providers, urban areas and cities, municipalities, Level 4 and 5 hospitals, county special funds and other county entities such as authorities and corporations. The limited timeframe strained the committee's capacity to interrogate issues with the desired depth and comprehensiveness.

While the committee endeavoured to maintain high standards of scrutiny, time constraints occasionally necessitated prioritisation, resulting in some less critical, but still relevant matters receiving reduced attention. The committee also faced challenges relating to availability and responsiveness of key witnesses, including governors, accounting officers and technical staff which at times impeded timely and comprehensive examination of audit issues.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I invite this House to critically reflect on the interpretation and practical implications of Article 229(8) and consider its deeper meaning in the context of effective legislative oversight. In doing so, the House may wish to explore mechanisms through which scrutiny committees can discharge their oversight mandate without being unduly constrained by rigid timelines. Oversight and

accountability are by their very nature continuous processes that require sustained engagement beyond the confines of statutory deadlines.

With those few remarks, Madam Temporary Speaker, I submit. The statement is signed by Sen. Godfrey Osotsi, Chairperson of the Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Next is Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS,
TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) to make a statement on the activities of the Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing for the period commencing 1st January, 2026, to 31st March, 2026.

During the period under review, the committee held 14 sittings, considered 16 statements, two legislative proposals and undertook three inquiries. Three statements have been concluded while 11 are under consideration. Responses to these statements are pending from relevant Government agencies and county governments. The committee notes that delays in submission of responses continue to impede the committee's work and weaken parliamentary oversight.

The committee concluded consideration of one Bill and is finalising another Bill which will be tabled in the next reporting period.

In fulfilment of the mandate and in order to comprehensively address matters before it, the committee is currently seized of three inquiries namely; the status of Wilson Airport, the status of Talanta Stadium and the status of the Bomas International Convention Centre (BICC) redevelopment project. These inquiries address accountability and prudent use of public resources. The committee will table its reports on the inquiries in the next reporting period.

The Committee convened a meeting with the Ministry of Roads and Transport as well as the Council of Governors (CoG) in the course of its consideration of the Roads (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to provide for the reclassification of roads, delineate responsibilities in respect of county roads and further amend the manner in which the roads maintenance levy is apportioned.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the committee faced the following challenges which delayed conclusion of legislative business before it-

(1) Delayed response on two statements, petitions and inquiries from the government agencies hindering the committee's ability to progress with legislative and oversight functions in a timely manner.

(2) Frequent overlaps with other parliamentary engagements affected the programme and the timely convening of committee meetings delaying the decision-making process.

(3) Rescheduling and postponement of committee meetings with key external stakeholders, especially Cabinet Secretaries, governors and the head of agencies. These

disruptions affected the committee's timelines for addressing critical issues and finalising ongoing enquiries.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the committee is scheduled to undertake the following activities in the next quarter-

(1) Review existing legislation and propose amendments to strengthen regulatory frameworks on road and building construction standards, urban planning and zoning, housing affordability and financing and public-private partnerships in infrastructural development.

(2) Undertake visits to the various affordable housing projects in the country and to finalise the consideration and reporting on various pending petitions submitted by members of the public.

I thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Gataya, please proceed. You can read one for the Parliamentary Service Commission and also for the Delegated Legislation.

Sen. Gataya Mo Fire: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1)(b) to make a statement on the activities of the County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) for the period commencing January, 2026 to April, 2026.

During the period of review, the committee held a total of 60 meetings within and outside the precincts of Parliament to consider matters within its mandate. As you may recall, the judgement of the High Court in the *Public versus Nairobi City Council Assembly and another Musumba and Fuala Expertise Application E/082/2023/24/KIH/11/2024/KL* judicial review had a profound and far-reaching impact in the manner in which the committee and indeed the Senate as a whole discharged its oversight mandate.

The judgement firmly pronounced that the constitutional timeline set out under Article 229(4) and (8) of the constitution as read together with sections 48 and 50 of the Public Audit Act are mandatory and not subject to extension or discretion. The judgement imposed significant operational constraints on the audit oversight process by effectively compressing the terms within which audits were to be completed and the reports considered. This had indirect implications for the Senate CPAC in terms of planning, scheduling of hearings and the ability to undertake comprehensive interrogation of audit queries within the prescribed period.

Madam Temporary Speaker, for the Financial Year 2024/2025, the committee processed and reported all audit reports within the specified timelines with the Senate adopting the reports on 21st March, 2026.

The committee resolution has since been forwarded to the relevant agencies for implementation and the committee will follow up on the compliance upon expiry of the specified timelines. This was a significant institutional achievement despite operational

constraints such as the high volume of audit reports, numerous entities under review and a limited time for hearing and deliberations.

Meeting the constitutional timelines required effective prioritisation and efficient scheduling, timely appearance of witnesses, enhanced coordination with the office of the Attorney General and other stakeholders.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the committee experienced several challenges in complying with Article 229(8) of the Constitution, including strict timelines for concluding audit reports, the high volume of 198 reports and entities under review and a limited time for delayed scrutiny.

Additional challenges included unavailability of key witnesses, delays in submission of supporting documents and responses, logistical and administrative constraints in coordinating hearings and preparing reports under limited flexibility to address and foresee circumstances such as delays of submissions and rescheduled requests.

I commend the members of the committee and the secretariat for their diligence and commitment which enabled the committee to comprehensively consider and take appropriate action in the report from the county executives and county assemblies on the queries raised in the Auditor-General report for Financial Year 2025/26. Their dedication demonstrates the Senate's firm resolve to uphold accountability, strengthen oversight and safeguard public resources.

With those few remarks, I submit.

Signed today, on behalf of the Chair, Sen. Moses Otieno Kajwang', CBS MP.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL, 2026

Madam Temporary Speaker, let me read the report of the statement relating to the activities of the Committee on Delegated Legislation where I am the Chairperson, for the period between 1st January, 2026 to 30th April, 2026, pursuant to Standing Order No.56(1b).

During the period under review, the committee held a total of 25 sittings, received a total of 36 instruments for post-publication scrutiny and 10 draft statutory instruments for pre-publication scrutiny. The committee held four and one parliamentary diplomacy engagement.

On post-publication scrutiny for statutory instruments, during the period under review, the committee received a total of 36 statutory instruments for post-publication scrutiny. Of these, the committee has considered 26 statutory instruments and a further three transmitted to the Senate during the Fourth Part of the Fifth Session, bringing the total number of instruments considered to 29. Of these, the committee acceded to a total number of three statutory instruments as listed below-

- (i) The Crops and Pigs Regulation 2025, Legal Notice No.145 of 2025;
- (ii) The Sugar General Regulations 2025, Legal Notice No. 167 of 2025, and
- (iii) The Sugar Imports and Exports Regulations 2025, Legal Notice No.168 of 2025.

The committee is in the process of completing its consideration of 35 statutory instruments currently before it.

On pre-publication scrutiny statements, the committee has received a total of 10 draft statutory instruments for pre-publication scrutiny. Of these, the committee has approved two instruments for publication, namely the Tea Levy Regulations and the Tea Levy Registration and Licensing Regulations. These have since been published as legal notices No. 56, 65, 2026, and are before the committee for post-publication scrutiny.

The committee also engaged the State Department for Devolution for pre-publication scrutiny of the Intergovernmental Relations, Transfer, Delegation of Functions, and Competencies Regulations. The committee gave its comments on the regulations, and it was agreed that further engagement be held before publication.

The committee is in receipt of the draft Intergovernmental Regulations Sector Formula Regulations submitted to the Senate for approval by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

Unlike other statutory instruments, which are first published in the Kenyan Gazette, and thereafter laid before Parliament for ratification or possible annulment, Section 38(3) of the Intergovernmental Relations Act, Chapter 265(F) specifically, requires that these regulations be submitted to the Senate in draft form for approval before they are published. The committee is currently engaging stakeholders on the draft regulations and shall engage all the Senators as key stakeholders at the appropriate time.

On parliamentary diplomacy, the committee undertook a working visit to the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) in Arusha, Tanzania in April, 2026. These visits were taken in an effort to enhance regional integration of the East African Community (EAC).

I thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to the entire membership of the committee for the good work they have done.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, before we allow the Statement by the Majority Leader, I would like us to go back to Order No. 8, please.

BILL

First Reading

THE COUNTY ALLOCATION OF REVENUE BILL, (SENATE BILL NO. 10 OF 2026)

*(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time
and ordered to be referred to the relevant committee)*

We now move on to the Statement pursuant to Standing Order No. 57(1).
Proceed, Senate Majority Leader.

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK COMMENCING
TUESDAY 2ND JUNE, 2026

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: Madam Temporary Speaker, on behalf of the Majority Leader, I read this statement.

Pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1), I hereby present the business for the week commencing Tuesday 2nd June 2026.

As hon. Senators are aware, in accordance with the calendar for the Fifth Session, the Senate will proceed on a two-week recess at the rise of the Senate today. Regular sittings will resume on Tuesday 2nd June, 2026.

Before I proceed with the statement, hon. Senators may recall that during the sitting of Tuesday 12th May, 2026, the Senate considered and passed the following Bills at Second Reading-

- (1) The Culture Bill (National Assembly Bill No.12 of 2024).
- (2) The Public Audit (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 4 of 2024).
- (3) The Health (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No.12 of 2025).
- (4) The Agriculture, Produce Minimum Guarantee Returns Bill, (Senate Bill No.17 of 2025).
- (5) The National Construction Authority (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No.15 of 2025).
- (6) The Narcotic, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bill No.1 of 2024).

Bills at the Committee of the Whole and Third Reading-

- (1) The Division of Revenue Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2026).
- (2) The Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 21 of 2025).
- (3) The Kenya National Council for Population and Development Bill (National Assembly Bill No.72 of 2023).
- (4) The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 48 of 2024).

The Bills passed at Third Reading have been referred to the National Assembly for consideration.

Hon. Senators will also recall that during the same sitting on Tuesday, 12th May, 2026, the Senate considered and passed the following Motions-

- (1) Report of the Mediation Committee on the National Disaster Risk Management Bill (National Assembly Bill No.24 of 2023); and
- (2) Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on the stoppage of transfer of funds to the County Government of Meru pursuant to Article 225(3) of the Constitution and Section 97(1) of the Public Finance Management Act.

I take this opportunity to thank hon. Senators for the good work that was done on Tuesday. Nevertheless, as we break for the recess at the rise of the Senate today, there remains substantial business before the Senate and it will be necessary for us to maintain the same spirit upon resumption of sittings for Part Three of the session.

As regards the pending business before the Senate, the status is as follows-

(i) Sixty-two Bills are pending conclusion, of which 41 are at Second Reading, 20 are at Committee of the Whole and one is awaiting First Reading;

(ii) Fifteen Motions are pending conclusion;

(iii) Seventeen petitions are pending conclusion by respective Standing Committees. Of these petitions, 15 are due for reporting; and

(iv) Five hundred and one statements pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) are under consideration by respective Standing Committees.

Madam Temporary Speaker, at the next sitting of the Senate on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026, the tentative business for the day will include business not concluded from today's Order Paper, as well as the business indicated in the Notice Paper.

The tentative business for the morning sitting on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026 will include Questions to Cabinet Secretaries as approved by the Senate Business Committee (SBC), as well as Motions. The Questions scheduled include those to-

(i) The Cabinet Secretary, the National Treasury and Economic Planning;

(ii) The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs; and

(iii) The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC) Affairs, the ASALs and Regional Development.

The tentative business for the Afternoon Sitting on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026, will include business not concluded from Tuesday's Order Paper and the following-

Bills at Second Reading-

(i) The Agriculture and Food Authority (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No.13 of 2023);

(ii) The County Governments (State Officers Removal from Office) Procedure Bill (Senate Bills No.34 of 2024);

(iii) The County Governments (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No.39 of 2024);

(iv) The Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill (Senate Bills No. 43 of 2024);

(v) The County Governments Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No.52 of 2024);

(vi) The County Governments Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 14 of 2025).

Motions-

(i) Report of the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on Sessional Paper No.1 of 2025 on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya;

(ii) Report of the Liaison Committee on the activities and operations of Select Committees during the Third Session (2024);

(iii) Reports of the Standing Committee on Health on the County Oversight and Networking Engagements in Kitui, Makueni, Machakos and Kiambu counties;

(iv) Report of the Standing Committee on Health on the County Oversight and Networking Engagements in Kiambu County; and

(v) Report of the Standing Committee on Health on the County Oversight and Networking Engagements in Bungoma and Kakamega counties.

The projected business for Thursday, 4th June, 2026 will include business not concluded in the Order Paper for Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026, and any other business scheduled by the Senate Business Committee.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I thank you and hereby lay the statement on the Table of the Senate.

(Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi laid the document on the Table)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, we will defer Orders 10, 11,13,15 up to 24. We can now move on to Order No. 25.

MOTION

NOTING OF REPORT OF PAP COMMITTEES AND ORGANS HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA, 2024

THAT, the Senate notes the Reports of the Kenya Delegation to the sittings of the Pan-African Parliament Committees and other Pan-African Parliament (PAP) organs held at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, South Africa on 13th September to 20th September, 2024; and 28th October to 17th November, 2024, laid on the Table of the Senate on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2025.

(Motion deferred)

BILL

Second Reading

THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO.1 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

BILL

Second Reading

THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION (AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.66 OF 2023)

(Bill deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE NUTS AND OIL CROPS DEVELOPMENT BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.47 OF 2023)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.8 OF 2023)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.10 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE ENVIRONMENT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.23 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.45 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE PUBLIC FUNDRAISING APPEALS BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.36 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE COUNTY HALL OF FAME BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.18 OF 2023)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE PUBLIC FUNDRAISING APPEALS BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.36 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE COUNTY OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.3 OF 2024)

(Committee of the Whole deferred)

MOTION

ADOPTION OF MEDIATION REPORT ON FOOD AND
FEED SAFETY CONTROL COORDINATION BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.21 OF 2023)

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Mediation Committee on the Food and Feed Safety Control Bill (National Assembly Bills No.21 of 2023) laid on the table of the Senate on Tuesday, 28th April, 2026, and that pursuant to Article 113(2) of the Constitution and Standing Order 167(3) of the Senate, approves the mediated version of the Bill.

(Motion deferred)

Sen. Nyamu, proceed.

BILL*Second Reading*THE AUTISM MANAGEMENT BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.19 OF 2025)

Sen. Nyamu: Madam Temporary Speaker, I beg to move that the Autism Management Bill (Senate Bills No.19) of 2025 be read a second time.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the Autism Management Bill is not just another piece of legislation before this House; it is legislation that promotes compassion, equality and inclusivity. For far too long, many families in Kenya have struggled alone with autism. Many families are left to figure it out without any support from the State. This Bill seeks to change that.

Families move from hospital to hospital before they get a diagnosis and understand what is happening to their children. Autism is not a curse or witchcraft, but a neurodevelopmental condition. One of the proposals in this Bill is a vigorous public awareness campaign to deal with the stigma associated with autism.

Mothers and many caregivers who deal with autistic children are left to struggle alone, often not knowing what is happening to the children. In Kenya, a child is usually diagnosed with autism very late, often after the age of four years. This Bill seeks to change that reality for many families. It proposes early diagnosis, access to therapy and healthcare services for all families.

Many schools reject autistic children because they do not have the right environment or the support to keep an autistic child in school. This Bill provides for provisions to ensure that autistic children are included in schools. We must train professionals in this field because autism has been viewed as a medical issue. My Bill proposes to shift that to a human rights issue and that is why we are talking about inclusivity and all that.

Another key strength of this Bill is the recognition of a multidisciplinary approach. We cannot leave it to doctors alone. We need occupational therapists, speech therapists, caregivers and every other person who comes into contact with autistic children.

I also welcome the proposals that came from the Committee on Health. When the Bill was subjected to public participation, there was a lot of interest. Parents came and gave their deeply personal perspectives on this matter and have enriched this, Bill.

Another key provision of this legislative proposal is that therapy, treatment and everything that affects the autistic child should be catered for under the Social Health Authority (SHA) to ease the financial burden that parents of autistic children face. Therapy is extremely expensive and very few families can afford autism therapy. We are proposing that the national health insurance cover takes this up. These children are also discriminated by insurance providers when someone discloses that a child is autistic. The insurance companies are skeptical and do not want to cover those children.

We are proposing that research and data collection be undertaken for us to know the number of autistic individuals and children that we have in this country. That will

help us counter or address autism based on facts and actual numbers. The Bill also proposes a framework for coordination between the national Government and the county governments. After the input by the stakeholders, the Bill now also recognises autism across a lifespan. My proposal was mainly on children.

This Bill further introduces the important caregiver support provisions. The caregivers are the invisible backbone of autism management in Kenya. They have been doing the *kienyeji* caregiving in the homes. The caregivers need a lot of psychological support, training and support programmes. Most importantly, we need greater public awareness to reduce stigma and isolation for these kids.

As I said, at its core, the Bill is about constitutional rights. Article 27 of the Constitution guarantees equality and freedom from any discrimination. Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees the right to health and education while Article 54 of the Constitution guarantees the right of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to dignity. So, this Bill gives a practical effect to those constitutional provisions and interventions.

Madam Temporary Speaker, allow me to sincerely thank the following people who have really contributed to the Bill as it is right now. I want to thank the Senate Standing Committee on Health. I also want to thank all parents and caregivers who courageously shared their personal experiences, autism advocates and professionals, disability rights organisations who gave this Bill a whole new outlook and all stakeholders who participated in strengthening this Bill. Their contributions have made this Bill stronger, inclusive and a more practical framework for autism management in Kenya.

With those few points, I beg to move and request Sen. Cherarkey to come and second.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I will try to be as quick as possible. I want to second the Bill and pick from where the Mover, Sen. Nyamu, has left.

Autism causes lifelong neurodevelopment conditions and affects social communication and interaction behaviour. Autism is caused by genetic factors rooted in brain development. It is not caused by vaccines or poor parenting. Autism is normally caused either by genetics or sometimes, spontaneous mutation.

Children can be checked or assessed at two years of age. I think one in every six children suffers from autism. However, this can be managed through occupational and speech therapy. This is still a new concept in the country. In Africa, you know, we associate it with the Western world. Therefore, no one should blame any parent by saying it is because of poor parenting.

Saying this, I remember the Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) was talking about women who got pregnant as recruits in Kiganjo. You know, that is a biological issue. No one should be punished for getting pregnant. I agree, through KEWOSA, that all young girls who got pregnant during the Kiganjo Police Recruit Training should be allowed to defer, go and give birth. It is not an accident and it is not an offence under the law. Thereafter, they can go back to their training. I want to thank you and your colleagues for taking that lead.

So, it is not about poor parenting. I want to appeal to parents that when you get a child who has autism, do not hide him or her. It is not sorcery or witchcraft. It is an issue that can be handled medically.

This Bill is trying to ensure that children born with autism can be taken care of through proper medical cover. You heard the Mover talking about insurance cover. We hope the Social Health Authority (SHA), and we were with the CEO, Dr Mwangangi, today discussing SHA, will take into account the issue of autism, so that parents do not bear the burden. I know all of us in this House are parents, and we hold our children dearly. We value our children dearly. When you get a child who is differently-abled, you should not feel embarrassed. You should not feel bad or blame your ancestors. Do not say, "Is it my ancestors or my grandmothers reawakening?" Some regions and communities, even some religions or communities blame reincarnation and say it is because of sorcery or ancestors. This is a medical issue. Kenyans and parents should know that and should bring their children to be assessed.

On this, the national and county governments must take action because we know health is devolved under the Fourth Schedule. I also want to encourage young people, especially those at the Table Office, to have children while they are still young enough. This era of people delaying having children is also said to be a source of autism. We should give birth early enough. Do not wait until you are 60, 70, or 80 years old to have children, although age can affect the issue of autism.

Young people out there, get children at a good time, so that you are able to have children who are sharper than when you get them at an older age. Those are some of the factors.

In the interest of time, I want to say this is very important. All stakeholders, including the Committee on Education, the national Government, and county governments, must be involved.

With those many remarks, I beg to second the Autism Management Bill, 2025, Senate Bill No. 163. I yield back.

I thank you.

(Question proposed)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Now, Hon. Senators, it is now 6.30 p.m., time to adjourn the Senate.

As we adjourn for the recess, I wish all Senators a good recess. I know you will be busy with committee work and on the ground, trying to find out what the people and the counties want us to work on.

The Senate, therefore, stands adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 6.30 p.m.